



## June E-News: Identifying the Dominant Aggressor

Dear Friends,

***“It’s not always as simple as one person having power and control over another with the aggressor only using physical force. Sometimes it is one person trying to exert power and control over the other with force and the other is using force to fight back.”***

- Dr. Ellen Pence (1948 - 2012)

With this in mind, it becomes challenging for Law Enforcement to arrive on a scene and find both parties with injuries and their own versions of what took place. Law Enforcement is then asked to identify a Dominant Aggressor.

Strangulation impacts all professionals working on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases, in particular. Today, we know unequivocally that strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence. Unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes.

Did you know that at least 50% of the time strangled victims will have no visible injuries from being strangled while their assailants will likely have visible injuries from victims trying to defend themselves up to 65% of the time? One strangulation study found 13 out of 20 suspects (stranglers) had injuries upon examination, including scratch marks to their face and hands. (Harm, 1981).

This month, we are so excited to share with you our featured webinar, "How to Identify the Dominant Aggressor in Strangulation Cases" which is available for FREE on our Resource Library. Gael Strack, our CEO, and our featured faculty member, Mike Agnew, discuss lessons learned, best practices, new research, and resources available for family violence and sexual assault professionals.

Mike Agnew was the lead Domestic Violence Detective with the Fresno Police Department for 15 years. Michael was recognized by the California Attorney General's Office Task Force on the Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence as a statewide expert and conducts strangulation prevention trainings on behalf of the Institute.

This webinar is designed through case studies to provide ideas on how to identify the Dominant Aggressor. The unique challenges of non-fatal strangulation assaults that may leave only minor to no visible injuries are discussed along with factors to be considered.

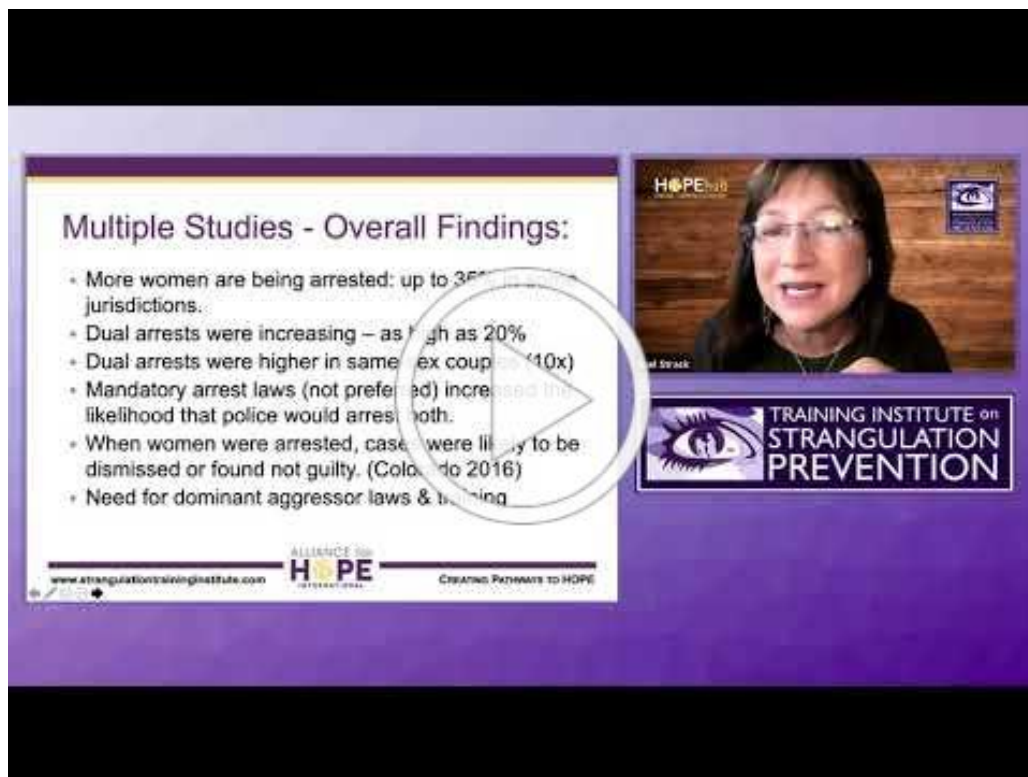
Identifying the true dominant aggressor is never an easy task in any domestic violence case. Professionals cannot rely on visible injuries alone. There are at least 10 important factors to consider – join us to find out more. This webinar helps professionals identify the dominant aggressor not only in domestic violence cases but also non-fatal strangulation cases in particular.

Always with Great HOPE,  
Gael Strack and Casey Gwinn



## Featured Webinar

### Identification of the Dominant Aggressor in Strangulation Cases



## Other Resources From the Field

- [Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence Policy Brief](#)
- [State Law Changes Address Domestic Violence Dual Arrests](#)
- [New Dominant Aggressor Law Positively Impacts Intimate Partner Violence Dual Arrest Rate in CT](#)
- [State of Connecticut Public Act No. 18-5](#)
- [When Battered Women Are Arrested](#)
- ["She Hit Me Too" Identifying the Primary Aggressor: A Prosecutor's Perspective](#)
- [Primary Aggressor Statutes](#)
- [Predominant Aggressor Policies: Leaving the Abuser Unaccountable?](#)

## Updates from the Institute



## Upcoming Trainings

- **June 8-9, 2021:** Virtual 2 Day Strangulation Prevention (Northern Ireland)
- **June 11 & 24, 2021:** Virtual 2 Day Strangulation Prevention (Cuyahoga County, OH)
- **June 25, 2021:** Virtual 1 Day Strangulation Prevention (Wilmington, DE)
- **August 10, 2021:** Virtual 1 Day Strangulation Prevention (Plummer, ID)
- **August 11, 2021:** Half Day Strangulation Prevention (MCAS Miramar, CA)
- **August 27, 2021:** Keynote Speech (Contra Costa, CA)
- **September 17, 2021:** Virtual 1 Day Strangulation Prevention (Billings, MT)
- **September 28, 2021:** 1 Day Strangulation Prevention (Bucks County, PA)
- **October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2021:** Virtual 4 Day Strangulation Prevention
- **November 4, 2021:** Virtual 1 Day Strangulation Prevention (Pennsylvania IAFN)

Please visit our [Upcoming Trainings Page](#) for training contact/registration information



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